

# Margaret Sangster's Talks On Home Circle Questions.

## SMOKING BENEDICTS SHOULD HAVE A DEN

It Is Depressing for a Married Man to Forego Pleasure of Cigar Indoors.

A Man Should Have a Bit of a Place Where He May Do as He Pleases.



MRS. MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

By MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

(Copyright, 1905, by Joseph B. Bowles.)

THE argument for and against the use of tobacco is ceaselessly waged, and will probably continue to cause animated discussion for years to come. From present appearances, smokers will not cease to smoke, nor will those who disapprove their course cease to remonstrate. Certainly there are valid objections to be urged against the habit when it is indulged to such excess by men that it becomes their master and they are its slaves. But there will always be a large number of excellent men who will practically agree with the hero of Kipling's lyric, who, having to choose between tobacco and his sweetheart, summed the thing up, tersely, in the lines:

A woman is only a woman,  
But a good cigar is a smoke.

Now, can you commend such levity as this. Yet a man who is fond of his pipe, and finds the after-dinner cigar a favorable accompaniment to pleasant conversation, is pardoned if he resents the undisciplined nagging of the woman who, without rhyme or reason, hates the weed. No candid person can deny that men get a good deal of innocent, and to many of them innocuous, enjoyment from smoking, either in solitude or in companionship. The most bearish and crusty man grows affable and optimistic when smoking the brand he loves. It would seem as if the matter were one of personal liberty and individual decision, and while thousands of clergymen, statesmen, scholars, and worthy members of society find a respite from toil and stimulant of thought in this peculiarly masculine privilege, they ought to be let alone. Whatever women may think, they need not always disturb themselves to express an opinion with vigor and emphasis as they generally do.

## DEPRESSING TO FOREGO THE PLEASURE OF HIS CIGAR.

Where may a man smoke? Assuming him to be a married man, and master in his own house, it is somewhat depressing for him, at least, to forego the pleasure of his cigar indoors and to be compelled to don overcoat and hat, and go out whenever he wishes a smoke. I never see this proceeding without an inward protest. The back porch and the front garden walk are very well on summer evenings, but when winter comes, and the cold wind blows a man should smoke indoors. This is not to say that a man should smoke in the drawing room, or in the family living room against the faces of his wife. It was the habit of Thomas Carlyle to sit in his armchair and smoke up the chimney. It is on record that he and his wife spent a long evening sitting on the opposite side of the hearth, smoking in amicable proximity and never saying a word. Yet they felt that they had been in harmonious spiritual converse.

With us paterfamilias can hardly go to the kitchen and sit with the maids while he smokes his after-dinner pipe. If his wife is quite certain that a few minutes' airing will not take the scent of his tobacco from her rugs and portieres, then let her provide him with a place of his own. At whatever cost, within bounds, the good man of the house should have his den, as much his especial retreat and as sacred to his retirement as her own room is to his wife. Be it noted that the room which father and mother share in common in the household is never his room, but always hers. The children come shouting in from school, and rush to mother's room, not to father's. The most intimate friends of the lady of the house are sometimes admitted there, but it never would occur to a man to take even a brother or a partner in business into that feminine environment for a half-hour's chat.

A man, if a punctilious gentleman, knocks at his wife's door when he finds it closed, while she opens it and enters unannounced. If he happens to be in her room when she is away.

## SHOULD HAVE PLACE TO DO AS HE PLEASES.

A man should have, I repeat, some bit of a place in the house to which he may withdraw whenever he likes, and where he may do as he pleases. The professional man has this retreat in his office or the private room at home, where he receives patient or client or occasionally chats with men who drop in of an evening. If the borough or the township have some wrong to be righted and neighbor wants to talk the matter over with neighbor, the man who has a den possesses an advantage at the moment over the man who has none. He has a place to which he may ask a friend for an interview.

Smoking aside, it is very convenient to have a place in the house where he may keep a desk and bookshelves, where he may file papers, receipts, and various documents, preserve newspaper clippings, keep maps, lexicons, or any literature that he personally affects. Here, too, the tyrant of good housekeeping need not bear too heavily on a man who likes to have his desk in that chronic disorder which is really more orderly than the outside suspects. The only time, as thousands of men will bear me witness, when things cannot be found, is the time when mistress or maid has ventured to clear up a desk, and put it in what she erroneously supposes to be good order.

In a man's own den he may keep his fishing tackle, guns, whatever curios it pleases him to collect, and such souvenirs of agreeable outings as are apt to accumulate when one has traveled.

I have seen a man's den that was a small museum, filled with interesting Indian curiosities, brought from several tramping grounds, East and West, where once the red men had their homes. If a man cares nothing for any of these pursuits, it will still be an agreeable thing for him to have a place where, without annoying anyone else, he may keep his old boots and shoes and hang up his old hats and coats.

## AVERAGE BENEDICT HAS COMPARATIVELY FEW PRIVILEGES.

When one thinks of it, the average man has comparatively few privileges in his own house. I am not alluding to bachelors, who are, of course, independent, sometimes almost princely in very luxurious apartments. Though a bachelor's apartment be ever so finely appointed, it lacks the sweet atmosphere and the gladness of a true home. The true home presupposes wife and children. Yet necessarily the larger part of the married man's life is spent outside the house, and most of his strength is expended in providing for his family. It may easily happen in these short winter days that a man shall not see his little children awake on any day but Sunday. Of this he does not complain. American husbands are proverbially unselfish and generous, and deserve well of their wives, to whom they deny little that love can give. The American man is a model of good manners and liberality.

As a little space for solitude best prepares most of us for society, and it is a prime requisite of wholesome life that everyone should now and then have the chance to be alone, a wife should take pride in arranging a retreat for her husband. His den should be furnished, not with odds and ends, or with shabby leftovers from the rest of the house, but should be made comfortable and attractive with a divan and cushions, so that a tired man may take an evening nap if drowsiness comes over him at the end of the day. And wherever smoking may be prohibited, it should be the unquestioned right of a man to smoke in his den. Why forbid to a worthy citizen and admirable father a privilege which is not taken from prisoners in confinement, from sailors on the sea, or our men at arms at Uncle Sam's posts of service, at home or abroad? Though I say all this and mean it, I must add that I personally think the finer halo belongs to the man who does not smoke, often that by refraining he may set an example of virtue to his sons and the sons of others. It is, of course, impossible that a gentleman should force tobacco smoke on the public, in public conveyances, except in seats and compartments reserved for the purpose.

## MISTAKES OF GIRLS WHILE HOUSE GUESTS

Many Make Themselves Unwelcome by Their Bad Manners or Untidiness.

Breeziness of Zephyr Order May Be Appreciated, Not That of a Cyclone.

By MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

(Copyright, 1905, by Joseph B. Bowles.)

"MARY has been here on a visit," explained Mary's friend's mother, with a look of apology, "and we have not yet cleared up the house. She is the dearest girl in the world, but I can't help thinking that she has been badly brought up. From the moment she arrives she tramples rough-shod over all my traditions. She ignores every one of my rules and sets a bad example to my children. We are fond of her, but Jane and I draw a breath of relief whenever her visits are over."

"Now, mother," pleaded the young daughter of the house, "don't you think that you and Aunt Jane are a little too old-fashioned? You really are not quite modern. Mary is like most of the girls I know, and when I visit her the whole family are amazed at my particular ways, though here at home you are not impressed with them."

## RUNNING AMUCK THROUGH EVERY CIVILITY.

"My dear," said the mother, with energy, "if I ever imagined that you, when visiting in a strange house, could leave a trail of your gloves, pocket handkerchiefs and stocks marking your path from your own room to the other rooms of the house; if you turned on gas and electric lights and left unnecessary burners blazing for hours in the evening, when you were not needing them; if you came late for breakfast and late to dinner, and generally ran amuck through every civility, I should be ashamed to have you go out as a representative of my home training. I really do like most of your friends, and I am fond of Mary, but the next time she comes here I shall put her in the second best bedroom, and not in the guest chamber. She is too destructive, too exasperating. She has ruined the cover of the dressing bureau by spattering it with ink, and cracked the soap dish, so that I will have to buy another, which spoils the set."

"Poor Mary!" sighed Elsie. "She must have fallen into those careless ways while she was at college."

Here Aunt Jane interrupted the conversation in her usual strenuous manner. Aunt Jane is an energetic spinster who has convictions on every subject under the sun, but who is especially pronounced in her judgment when it comes to bringing up girls. She spoke severely:

## FEW PEOPLE CAN TOLERATE A CYCLONE.

I wonder if girls who are something like Mary ever stop in their progress through the world to reflect that, while everybody likes a zephyr, few people can tolerate a cyclone. Just a little thought, a little time and a little consideration: for others often make the difference between an agreeable guest and the reverse.

If you are going on a visit the first thing of which you have to think is whether or not you are to take a trunk. If the visit is to extend over a week or more it is well to be provided with clothes for every emergency, and these cannot be so easily packed into a suit case as into the larger compass of a small-sized or steamer trunk. If a girl is invited either by herself or as one of a house party there will presumably be occasions when she will require a pretty evening dress, and when she should be properly gowned for a luncheon or an afternoon tea. Her traveling dress will meet the requirements of walking, driving, skating, or going about in street cars if it be short and smart, without elaborate trimming. It is a good plan when convenient, to send a trunk by express the day before one goes, thus insuring its arrival on the same day with its owner. This cannot be depended upon as certain in times of crowded summer travel or in the winter when storms and drifts may delay trains.

A visitor should arrive promptly at the hour which has been fixed. Once in the house of her friend she should unobtrusively familiarize herself with the ordinary ways of the house. Every home has its little peculiarities which belong to itself. A young girl should not neglect the older people whom she finds in a family, and she should be careful not to interrupt conversation, nor monopolize it, nor take the lead when older people are present. All this should go without saying in the case of well-bred young girls, yet they sometimes need a word of caution.

## IT IS NEVER WELL TO ECONOMIZE THANKS.

For instance, if you have been spending the evening out and come in late, it is thoughtful for you to go quietly to your room, not chatting loudly or laughing on the stairs and disturbing the rest of those at home who are already in bed. Another good point for the visiting girl is to be pleased with everything that is done for her, and not to be afraid to express her thanks. Never economize thanks. It is better to say too much than to say too little in the way of acknowledging kind attentions.

If a guest wishes to carry books or magazines from the family livingroom to her own special domain, which the guest chamber is while she occupies it, she should mention her desire to do so, as some one may possibly be in the middle of a novel, or still be reading some article in the magazine. Neither should a girl express extravagant liking for one member of the family and treat another with indifference. A girl I knew once paid a visit in a house where there were twin sisters, a little older than herself. She was much attracted to Miss Elizabeth and equally repelled from Miss Cynthia, not through any act on the part of either sister. The girl was very young. She thought Miss Elizabeth the prettier of the two, and took a tremendous fancy to her music, lingering to hear her play the piano, while when Miss Cynthia sang she ostentatiously left the room. Her preference and her dislike were both so marked that they aroused surprise and comment, and she was not invited to that house again for years.

## AN ADVERTISEMENT OF HOME.

A girl going from home should not forget that she is an advertisement to everyone she meets of the home she comes from. If she is rude and noisy, if she drops into slang, or indulges in any practice not quite becoming a gentleman, the natural inference is that in her home offenses against good manners are common and are readily condoned.

A visit should always be concluded, unless there is excellent reason to the contrary, at the time which was indicated when the invitation was sent. Unless one is very urgently entreated to extend it, the part of wisdom is to go away before anyone can be in the least tired of your presence. In hospitable homes, where the visiting list is long, your room may be desired for your successor, and if you linger beyond the time allotted to your stay you may be the cause of embarrassment and inconvenience to your hosts. The visiting girl must not forget promptly to send what is called her bread and butter letter after her return to her home. This is simply a pleasant informal note, telling that her homeward journey has been safely accomplished, and repeating her cordial thanks for the pleasure she had had, though she has already verbally expressed them when taking leave of her entertainers.

## HER MASTERPIECE.

"Miss D'Aub is a noted painter, is she not?"  
"Yes, quite famous, I believe."  
"What is her masterpiece?"  
"Her face, I think."—Houston Post.

## COMPETENT.

"Do you think you can hold the bride?" they asked Horatius.  
"Sure!" replied he confidently. "I held a baby once for an hour."—Houston Post.

## Board of Commissioners Miss Great Opportunity

Members of the District Triumvirate Fail to Take Advantage of a Great "System" of Physical Culture.

A physical culture teacher made a vain plea to the District Commissioners this week, but they declined to enroll themselves in his classes. He succeeded in passing the barricade of private secretaries in the outer offices and pass upon the credentials of those who wish to gain the inner sanctum. He succeeded in detailing the story of his life, his profession and his "system." But he failed to impress the triumvirate with their need of physical exercise.

He told them all confidentially that the cares of state were telling on their constitutions to such an extent that each and every one was growing thin and pale under the strain. He felt of their muscles and declared they were too flabby and needed development.

## Needs of the Board.

The professor intimated that the next attack on the smoke law might produce heart disease in the president of the board, that Commissioner West seemed to be going into a decline and that the Engineer Commissioner could not bear up much longer under the burden of speechmaking which has been part of his duties during the past week.

He confided in them that he, too, like President Roosevelt, was a weakling when a child, but that he also had determined to build himself up in vigor and manly strength. In doing so he had

developed the "system" which he urged the Commissioners to try upon themselves. In proof of its efficacy he pointed to his own rosy cheeks, his square shoulders and well-knit muscles.

## Would Work on the Trio.

The Commissioners were assured that after trying his system they would develop wonderfully. In a month they would be able to outrun an automobile. In a year they could lift the District debt. They would soon feel like rising with the lark and shoveling snow off their own sidewalks. They would walk to the District Building instead of reclining in a carriage, they would hold three hearings a day, approve half a hundred requisitions and endorse a dozen bills, sign two more letters and dictate as many more, welcome a few visiting delegations and wrestle successfully with the District appropriations committee.

## His Eloquence Fails.

But with all these allurements arrayed before their eyes the Commissioners declined. They all take exercise more or less anyway. Commissioner West plays golf. Commissioner Macfarland often walks up four flights of stairs to the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium, and Colonel Biddle once a year goes to the Army and Navy football game. So they will continue to sacrifice their health for the sake of the District.

## BELL TO BE CONSULTED ABOUT MILITARY SCHOOL

Brig. Gen. J. Franklin Bell has been ordered to Washington for consultation with the chief of staff regarding the modification of the course of instruction of the infantry and cavalry school.

## SIMPLE SOLUTION.

James Milligan, the Mexican mining man, told a story at the Waldorf-Astoria the other day about Milligan, Jr., the younger at breakfast. The younger had eaten the inside of his toast, leaving the crusts at the side of his plate. His father said to him, reproachfully: "When I was a little boy I always ate the crusts as well as the inside of my toast."

"Did you like them?" inquired Milligan, Jr., cheerfully.  
"Yes," responded the parent.  
"Do you like them now?" pursued his offspring.

"Yes," replied Milligan, sr., again.  
"Well, you may have them," said Milligan, Jr., benevolently, pushing over his own discarded crusts.—New York Times.

## BERNHARDT'S DEPARTURE CAUSES A SENSATION

ROME, Jan. 14.—Madame Sarah Bernhardt's sudden departure from Italy without keeping her engagement at the Valle Theater in Rome has caused quite a sensation in the theatrical world. The reason for the great French actress' flight from Naples without stopping to hear his production, so that Madame Bernhardt was deprived of the audience she had every right to expect, Rome is, unfortunately, paying for the expenses of Naples.

## TALK IS QUICKER.

Miss Chatters—They, say, you know, there is nothing quicker than thought.  
Mr. Knox—For women there is. She always speaks before she thinks.—Philadelphia Press.

## For More Than Fifty Years the SINGER has

been recognized as maintaining the  
Highest Standard of Excellence  
among Family Sewing-Machines and is  
now sold at lower prices

quality considered, than any other. Whether you propose the purchase of a machine or not there is much to interest most women at any Singer Store—and all are cordially invited.

By this Sign  
you may know  
and will find  
Singer Stores  
Everywhere



These Machines  
are never sold  
to dealers.  
Only from Maker  
to User

A small payment down, the rest at  
convenient intervals.  
Four different kinds and a wide  
range of prices to suit.

1716 Fourteenth Street Northwest

616 Ninth Street Northwest

229 Pennsylvania Avenue Southeast

WASHINGTON, D. C.

John F. Ellis & Co.

## PIANOS

and All Kinds of  
Musical Instruments  
Pianos, Organs, Guitars, Mandolins,  
Cornets, Banjos, Flutes, Music  
Rolls, Music Books.

Victor Talking Machines, Piano  
Players, Etc.

John F. Ellis & Co.,  
937 Penna. Ave. N. W.

Phone 1216

Near 10th St.

PETER GROGAN  
Credit for All Washington.

THE  
GREATEST  
BARGAINS OF  
A YEAR IN  
PARLOR,  
BEDROOM,  
AND DINING  
ROOM

## Furniture

WE ARE  
REDUCING  
STOCK, REGARDLESS  
OF PRICES,  
AND ON

## Credit

Our big specials for Monday will be Sideboards, and during that day only, we shall offer values that cannot be approached in any other store in Washington. Ask to see the Sideboards that we have been reduced to \$37.50

Additional discounts as follows:  
10 per cent for cash with order  
or within 30 days; 7½ per cent if  
paid within 60 days, and 5 per  
cent if paid within 90 days.

PETER GROGAN  
817-819-821-823 7th St.  
Between H and I Sts. ja14-1f



## SHAFER, Florist.

Floral Work  
For All Occasions.  
Fourteenth and I (Eye)  
Phone 2416 Main ja3-1f



—As long as the best and  
purest bread may be had  
at the same price as other  
bread you might just as  
well have

## MOTHER'S BREAD

—The one bread that shows up  
best under all tests. 5c a  
loaf at your grocer's.  
CORBY'S MODERN BAKERY.

In Our New Store.  
BRENTANO'S  
F Street, Corner 13th.

\$3.98 For a \$5.50 Perfection Oil Heating Stove  
This is the largest size made,  
thoroughly reliable, and actually  
cut in price for this week.

Hudson's Variety  
Store,  
416 7th St. N. W.

## Burn Coke For Cooking

Fuel for cooking is a big item in the home expense account, when coal is used. But, when coke is used you reduce the fuel bill to a small amount, and at the same time get the best results. We'll supply you coke.

40 Bushels Large Coke, delivered... \$7.25  
40 Bushels Large Coke, delivered... \$5.25  
25 Bushels Crushed Coke, delivered... \$3.50  
40 Bushels Crushed Coke, delivered... \$3.25

Washington Gaslight Co.  
413 10th St. N. W.

Times Want Ads  
BRING RESULTS